

REMARKS

Claims 3, 5-6, 9 and 10-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 5-6 and 9 are amended. Claims 1-2, 4 and 7-8 are cancelled. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 14-21 are allowed and that 3, 5-6 and 9-13 contain allowable subject matter. These claims have been rewritten in independent form, respectively.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0048994 A1 to Oota et al. ("Oota"), and claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Oota in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0081904 A1 to Ko ("Ko").

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7 and 8 are cancelled, thereby rendering the above rejections moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

* * * *

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 3, 5-6 and 9-21 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JMH/tbh

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment Transmittal

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